

# The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

## From the President

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

### Special points of interest:

- From the President
- September Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Report Details
- Banquet Pix
- Who Invented the LED?
- October Program
- DX Contests for October

### How to Join

- \* Come to a club meeting;
- \* or send in an application by mail (form on [www.NADXC.org](http://www.NADXC.org))
- \* or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

I started writing this article from the middle but the finished product reads better if you start here.

We had a wonderful picnic last month and for the second year in a row the weather cooperated with a pleasant day. A few interested visitors happened by to inquire about our radio operations too so that made it all the more enjoyable. The pot-luck food strategy continues to serve us well with unexpectedly good & diverse food choices.

At last month's meeting we discussed funding the Bouvet Island DXpedition. To review, our club has to date spent only \$100 of the \$400 budgeted for 2016 funding of DXpeditions, and the consensus at the meeting was that we would like to fund this expedition at a more significant level. We also erected a PayPal site so members could add to the fund we plan on sending. That site (link from NADXC.ORG) has received a few dollars that we will include and if you'd like to chip in please do it soon as it will be shut down shortly.

Continuing the discussion & vote at our October meeting I propose we fund Bouvet Island somewhere between \$500 and \$1000. I can see your eyes going wide; please allow me to explain the rationale. One, Bouvet is going to be a very expensive expedition. It's way down yonder in the South Atlantic, 54 degrees S, 3 degrees E to be approximate. Two, the team includes Bob Allphin K4UEE and other experienced & trusted hams. Bob has also been our Banquet speaker in past years. Three, a review of the 2016 Budget actual versus planned expenditures puts us in a position to award a more significant sum. Four, with the decline of Cycle 24 it is unlikely the DXpedition community will mount another significant (i.e expensive and most-wanted) expedition until high band conditions improve some years from now. Five, CQ magazine readers surely noticed Bob's pic-

ture in the September issue holding aloft the INDEXA flag on Amsterdam Island. Wouldn't it be cool to have a picture of Bob holding our NADXC flag on Bouvet?

Per our Constitution, October is the month for our Annual Meeting & officer election. At the meeting we look forward to hearing from the nominating committee for a list of candidates clamoring to lead the club into 2017. Actually, most of your officers have agreed to continue to serve unless someone else would like to volunteer. The position of vice president is open and I want to thank Jim N4KH for his great service to the club.

In November we will elect DXer of the Year, with an award being presented at the Christmas Banquet. Our November meeting coincides with TV coverage of the Presidential Election so our meeting is a good excuse to leave the TV at home and come join us.

Speaking of elections I was glad to see our local candidate Greg Sarratt W4OZK won the election for ARRL Southeastern Division Director.

Unfortunately Teranova's private room is booked for our December Christmas party date. Your faithful officers are looking for an alternate location so look here in November for that info.

Lastly, a shameless plug for Logbook of the World. A few weeks ago I did a casual effort in CQ Worldwide RTTY. Ran assisted with the goal of getting a few new ones. At the end of the contest I uploaded my log to LOTW, time: 9 PM Sunday night. At 8 AM Monday morning the 15m QSO with E2E (Thailand) was confirmed! Like the talking toy on my boss's desk says, "That was easy".

73,

Mark, N4BCD

## September Meeting Minutes

By Kelley Johns, W4VPZ

Members attending: 18, Guests 2

Club President Mark N4BCD called the meeting to order.

### DX Worked

The sign-in sheet showed the following:

Mark N4BCD	TX on 15m
Johnny KR4F	VP6J, E51Q on 160m
Tom KG4CUY	I was the DX! (TNQP)
Tim AB4B	YF1AR 80 CW!!!
Al W4ABW	CY9C (NA-094), R23RRC (AS-091), Y09KXF (EU-191), A5A, RZ16FF
Stephen KK4TJP	40 Montenegro, 7X Algeria, FK New Cal- edonia

### Announcements

A few comments were made concerning the Huntsville Hamfest, all good. Gordon West WB6NOA came by the Hospitality Suite for some socializing.

The annual NA DX Club picnic saw some beautiful weather last weekend at Monte Sano State Park. We had a couple of notable visitors: a Park ranger, and two ladies. One of the ladies was ex-KC4IPO, who had been out of the hobby for 20 years. She heard the CW and came by to visit. She still remembered the code.

Greg Sarratt W4OZK is running for ARRL Southeastern Division Director. The election is in October, and ballots will be mailed. Please consider casting your vote for him; Greg has done very well for us in years past.

HR-1301 passed the House. Today's ARRL letter asked for letters to lobby our Senators. The bill "...directs the Federal Communications Commission to amend regulations concerning the height and dimensions of station antenna structures to prohibit a private land

use restriction from applying to amateur service communications if the restriction precludes such communications, fails to accommodate such communications, or does not constitute the minimum practicable restriction to accomplish the legitimate purpose of the private entity seeking to enforce the restriction."

### Treasurer's Report

The bank account balance is \$ 7,143.37. The income and expenses for the Hamfest DX Club Banquet yielded a net loss of \$ 66.48, which is not bad.

Kelley W4VPZ explained that the newsletter alert email is sent BCC: to the members. Any replies to the email go only back to her. If you have a general announcement for the membership that you would like to send by email, send it to her, and she will (within reason) forward it to the group for you.

### Membership Applications

Ed Tyler N4EDT of Pell City, AL. Ed is the ARRL PIO for the state of Alabama. He was voted in to membership. Welcome, Ed!

### Old Business

Banquet prizes – there were 16 prizes drawn, and about 80 attendees at this year's banquet. The chances of winning something, or something really big, are very good. Bob K8KI was awarded a very special and valuable prize. See the September 2016 volume of the LongPath Newsletter for some details of his new "2 Element Receive Array."

MD WA4DXP asked about band pass filters, mentioning an article in a recent magazine. Are they worth building and installing for use at Field Day? Chuck N4NM opined that they ARE worth it. More discussion revolved around the

room in reference to band pass filters vs. coax stubs. Checking previous issues of the National Contest Journal for band pass filter articles was recommended.

W4QB 147.300 repeater – don't change the courtesy tone. It seems to be working well.

### New Business

The club has received an email from Bob Allphin K4UEE requesting funding for the Bouvet Island (#2 most-wanted) DXpedition scheduled for late 2017 or early 2018. Bob, Ralph K0IR, and Erling LA6VM have been working on this project since returning from Peter Island (3Y0X) some 10 years ago. The club budgets \$100 or \$200 for DXpeditions, but this one is going to be a very expensive one. Mark N4BCD suggested the club consider working beyond the usual budgeted amount to support the Bouvet Island project. We have \$300 left in the DXpedition budget line item for this year. It is a project worth adding funds to our budget for. The club agreed to fund Bouvet Island aggressively/substantially from the budget and by asking members for additional earmarked donations. Kelley W4VPZ will look into adding a PayPal button to our web site, and will take earmarked check and cash donations in person or by mail.

### The LongPath Staff

#### Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

#### Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ, Minutes

Mark Brown, N4BCD, From the President

## September Minutes

(cont'd from p. 2)

Visitors were welcomed. Steve KD2JSW (whose wife is also an Extra), and Jerry N4JR, a friend of Craig's K4XR, who is from Scottsboro. We hope you both will come back to a meeting, and will join our group soon.

Officer elections are due to take place, per our by-laws, in October (at our "annual meeting"). We missed the nominating committee date for August, but are making it up tonight. The current President, Secretary-Treasurer, and the two directors have agreed to serve another year. Only a Vice-Presidential candidate needs to be nominated. The nominating committee will be Bob K8KI and Craig K4XR; thank you for serving.

No other business was raised, and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 for a program by Bob K8KI on receiver audio performance.

## Treasurer's Report Details

Treasurer's Report for September 2016

Beginning Balance.....\$ 7,143.37  
 Deposits  
 Checks\* ..... \$ 64.35  
 Withdrawals  
 Door Prize.....\$ 149.27  
 Best Western .....\$ 2,342.61  
 Ending Balance .....\$ 4,715.84

\* Refund from banquet overcharge.

## Banquet Pix (Better Late than Never)



Speaker Craig Thompson, K9CT



The room was quite full—just the right crowd.

## Who Invented the LED? Tip from Mark Brown, N4BCD

Here's an interesting story that starts and ends with the LED, but covers a lot of ground in between at [www.eham.net/articles/37196](http://www.eham.net/articles/37196). The major "in between" section on early radio detectors will be of particular interest to those who fool around with diode envelope detectors.

Don't miss the Youtube video in "Reproducing the Past"!



The Yaesu table.



The grand prize being delivered.



Elecraft's Eric Swartz, Craig Thompson, and our own Tom Russell.

## NADXC Officers and Directors

President	<b>Mark Brown, N4BCD</b>
Vice President	<b>Jim Spikes, N4KH</b>
Secretary/	<b>Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ</b>
Treasurer	
At-large	<b>Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI</b>
Directors	<b>Tom Duncan, KG4CUY</b>



## Per Ardua Ad Luna

Progress Report Picture from Steve Werner, AG4W

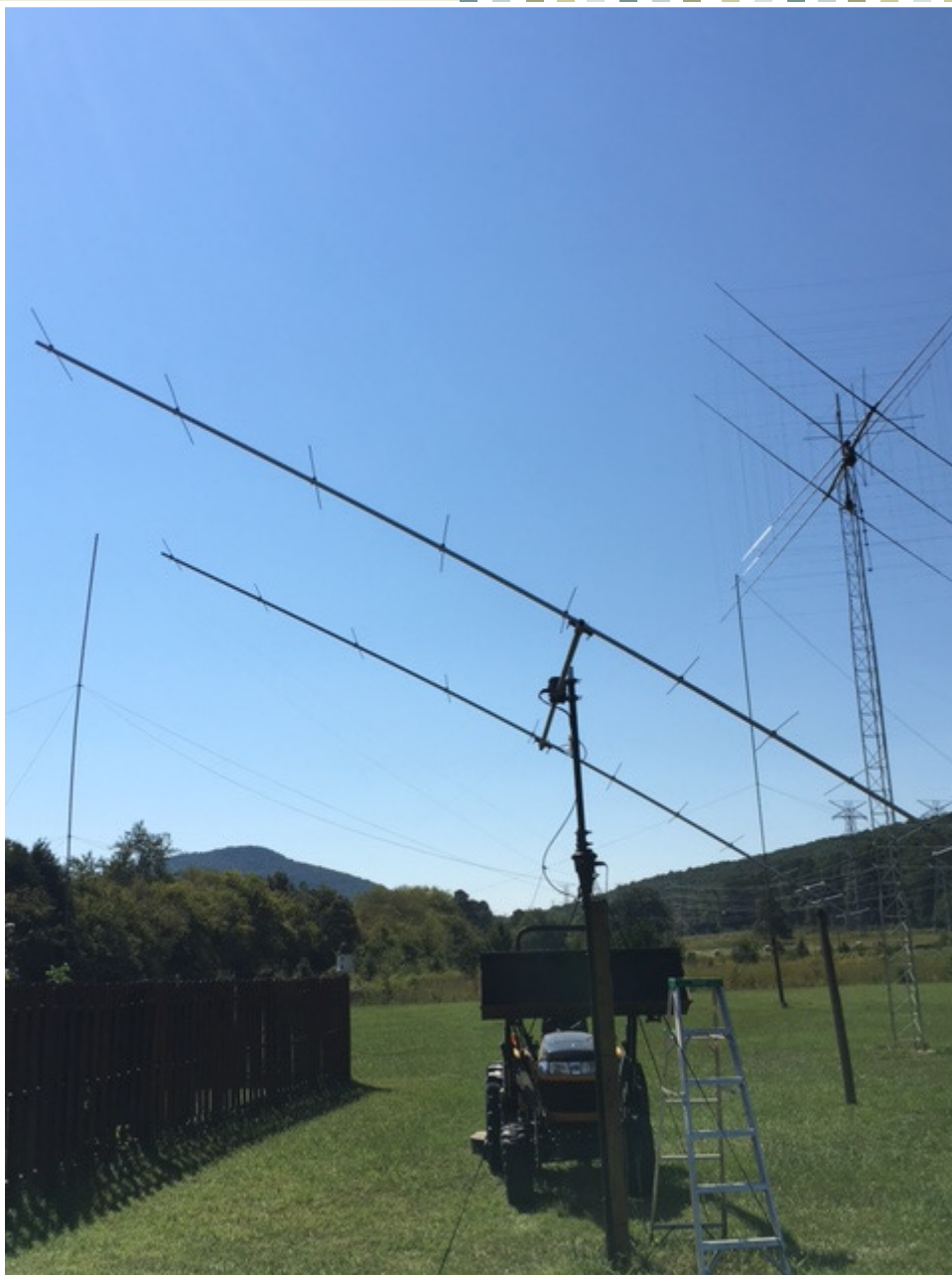
"To the Moon, Alice!" is the motto these days at AG4W. The twin 11-element yagis on 20' booms are a welcome addition to the impressive HF side of the antenna farm in the background. Steve cautions that plenty of work remains—but we see great progress.

Great work, Steve! But...who's Alice?

## October Program

By Jim Spikes, N4KH

With the propagation doldrums upon us, we don't have the luxury of extended periods of good conditions, nor based on what has been announced a confluence of many great DXpeditions. Our marching orders for now must be "get while the gettin's good". Part of this involves being aware of what's out there on the air. N4KH will tell us about DX Spotting: Tips and Tools. Get to the Golden Corral at 6:00 for dinner, 7:00 for the business meeting, and 7:30 for Jim's program. See you there!



## Free DX News!

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

We all lead busy lives and as the days & weeks go by one can lose touch with the comings and goings of announced DX operations. Wouldn't it be great if a weekly mail prompted us to plan our radio time using the knowledge of what *should* be on the air on any given day?

Here are two such offerings.

<http://www.papays.com/opdx.html> - After subscribing and replying to the confirmation email you'll receive a free weekly newsletter of announced DX operations.

<http://www.425dxn.org/> - a subscribe request will take you to a Google group where you are given the option to join.

One other tip for Ham Radio Deluxe users: it's possible to customize the DX spots you see to limit the list to display only the ones needed. Within the logging program look at the window that displays the spots in a VFO style window. Click on the box near the top labeled FILTER. Click ADD and make one for DX. Using the examples one can

Cont'd on p. 5

## DX Contests for October

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

### Oceania DX Phone Contest (CW), 160-10 meters

Oct 8, 0800Z to Oct 9, 0800Z

Exchange: RS & Serial No.

See page 95, Oct. QST and  
[www.oceaniadxcontest.com](http://www.oceaniadxcontest.com)

### Makrothen Contest, (Digital), 80-10 meters CANCELLED

BUT SOME HAVE SAID THEY WOULD BE  
QRV ANYWAY

Oct. 8, 0000Z to Oct. 9, 1600Z (See  
website for time details)

Exchange: 4 character grid square

See page 95, Oct. QST and  
[www.home.arcor.de/  
waldemar.kebsch](http://www.home.arcor.de/waldemar.kebsch)

### Scandinavian Activity Contest, (SSB) 80 -10 meters

Oct. 8, 1200Z to Oct. 9, 1200Z

Exchange: RS & Serial No.

See page 95, Oct. QST and [http://  
www.sactest.net](http://www.sactest.net)

### UBA ON Contest, CW, (CW), 80 Meters

Oct. 9, 0600Z to 0900Z

Exchange: RST, serial No., ON section  
(if any)

See page 95, Oct. QST and  
[www.uba.be/en](http://www.uba.be/en)

### JARTS WW RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80- 10 meters

Oct. 15, 0000Z to Oct. 16, 2400Z

Exchange: RS(T) & age; YL: 00

See page 95, Oct. QST and  
[www.jarts.jp/rules2016.html](http://www.jarts.jp/rules2016.html)

### Worked All Germany Contest, (SSB & CW), 20-10 meters

Oct 15, 1500Z to Oct 16, 1459Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus serial number  
or DOK code

See page 95, Oct. QST and  
[www.darc.de/referate](http://www.darc.de/referate)

### Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, (CW), 15 & 20 meters

Oct. 16, 0000Z-0200Z,

Exchange: RST plus serial number

See page 95, Oct QST and  
[www.jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt](http://www.jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt)

### Stew Perry Topband Challenge, (CW), 160 meters

Oct. 22, 1500Z to Oct. 23, 1500Z

Exchange: 4-character grid square

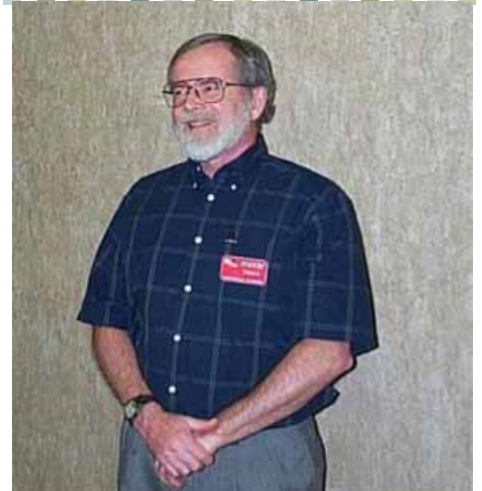
See page 95, Oct. QST and  
[www.kkn.net/stew](http://www.kkn.net/stew)

### CQ WW SSB, (SSB), 160-10 meters

Oct. 29, 0000Z to Oct 30, 2359Z

Exchange: RS & CQ zone

See page 95, Oct. QST and  
[www.cqww.com/rules.htm](http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm)



### WAE DX Contest (DIG), 80-10 meters

Nov. 14, 0000Z to Nov. 15, 2400Z

Exchange: RST plus serial number  
(see rules for QTC)

See [www.waedc.de](http://www.waedc.de)

### OTHERS:

#### Ukrainian DX Contest,

1200Z, Nov 5 to 1200Z, Nov 6

Dates & times often change or are mis-  
printed in the journals; beware. Also,  
check the cluster: "sh/contest". Have  
fun!

Chuck, N4NM

## Free DX News!

(cont'd from p. 4)

easily create a filter for displaying a  
certain call or callsign prefix on any  
band of interest. For example, at the  
moment one line in my filter is set to  
show any VK9 prefix anywhere between  
3 and 30 Mhz. It possible too to create

further granularity by setting only the  
RTTY or CW sub-bands.

The combination of knowing what  
should be on the air and where they  
pop up can be a great advantage.

73 es gud DX!

Mark N4BCD